

We claim:

1. An electrical connector comprising:
a female housing having an electrical contact therein;
a male housing having a distal end receivable into the female housing,
5 and having an electrical contact extending from the distal end to contact the electrical contact of the female member when the male housing is received in a closed position into the female housing; and
a shroud reciprocatingly mounted to the male member, movable
between a retracted position and an extended position, wherein when in the
10 retracted position the electrical contact of the male housing is exposed to permit said electrical contact with the contact of the female member, and when in the extended position the shroud extends to substantially cover the electrical contact of the male member.
- 15 2. The connector of claim 1, wherein the shroud is biased towards the extended position such that when the male housing is moved out of said closed position, the shroud moves into the extended position.
3. An electrical connector comprising:
20 a first member having a distal end, and an electrical contact extending therefrom;
a second member having first and second contacts, at least one of the contacts being an electrical contact, and at least one of the contacts being movable with respect to the other and biased in a first direction theretowards;
25 wherein the electrical contact of the first member is movable a second direction, generally orthogonal to the first, into a closed position, between the contacts of the second member by insertion therebetween, in which said movable contact is biased thereagainst and in which the electrical contacts of the members are in electrically conductive contact with each other, and the
30 electrical contacts are free to move in a third direction orthogonal to the first and second directions with the electrical contacts of the members are in electrically conductive contact with each other.

4. The connector of claim 3, wherein said movable contact is biased toward the other by means of a spring bearing against the movable contact.

5

5. An electrical connector comprising:

a pair of housing members movable with respect to each other in a first direction along a first axis to engage each other in a closed electrically conductive position;

10 wherein, a first of the members comprises a release member mounted thereto for reciprocating movement along the axis, and biased in the first direction and in abutment with the second of housing member to force the housing members apart when released from the closed position.

15 6. An electrical connector comprising:

a first housing having an electrical contact;

a second housing having a distal end with an electrical contact extending therefrom to contact the electrical contact of the first housing when the first and second housings are assembled with the contacts in electrically
20 conductive contact with each other; and

a shroud reciprocatingly mounted to the second housing, movable between a retracted position and an extended position, wherein when in the retracted position the electrical contact of the second housing is exposed to permit said conductive contact with the contact of the first housing, and when
25 in the extended position the shroud extends to substantially cover the electrical contact of the second housing.